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from the author.

IMMIGRATION: AND: SETTLEMENT

— OF OUR —

VACANT LANDS

— IN —

MANITOBA^{AND THE} NORTH-WEST

HOW HINDERED !

HOW PROMOTED !

— BY —

FRIMANN B. ANDERSON.

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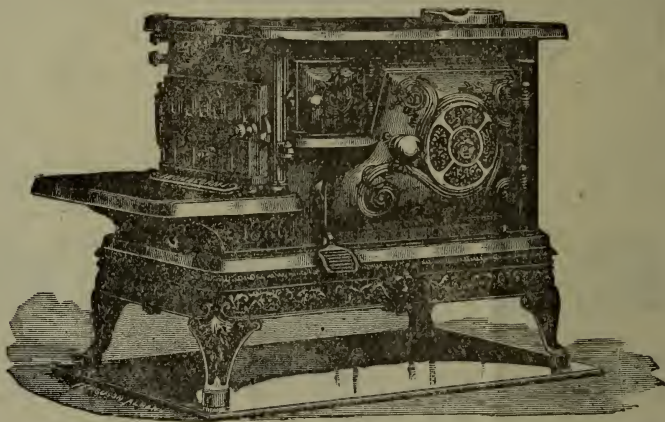
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PREFACE.

The following brief and hurried outline has been sketched with no reference to political parties or party issues, but simply in the interest of the people at large, from a conviction that much more should and could be done to further immigration and settlement in this country, and with a view of awakening for this a deeper and more earnest interest. The difficulties and defects have been pointed out and remedies suggested, in the hope that others better able and having better opportunities, will take up the subject, and that those in authority and power will do their duty and devote themselves more earnestly to advance this great work so beneficial to the suffering millions abroad, so important for this country's interests, and so necessary for our national progress.

F. B. A.

WINNIPEG, February 24th, 1887.

SYNOPSIS.

I. IMMIGRATION AS FACTOR IN NATIONAL PROGRESS.

II. IS CANADA RECEIVING SATISFACTORY IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT? Amount of lands vacant, population, immigration returns.

III. HOW IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT ARE HINDERED OR PROMOTED. (a.) Canada's natural advantages, (b.) Social advantages, (c.) Special inducements to immigrants.

IV. OUR IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION SYSTEM. Public lands, Dominion Government, Provincial Government, railway and land companies, societies and agencies.

V. WHAT IS DONE TO BRING IMMIGRANTS? Efforts directed abroad, immigrants sought, kind of agents, immigration literature, immigrants obtained, fares and passage.

VI. WHAT IS DONE TO KEEP IMMIGRANTS. *On arrival.*—Reception, information, assistance. *After arrival.*—Employment, free fares, fund. *Of settlement.*—(The laborer), railways and other public works, mining, lumbering. (The mechanic), building and manufactures. (The farmer), land, employment, capital.

VII. SUMMARY. *Hindrances.* *Remedies.*

IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT.

I.—THE INFLUENCE OF IMMIGRATION.

ONE of the distinctive features of this century is the migration from the older and more densely-settled countries of the old world to the great unsettled regions of the new. In this way colonies have been formed, new nations arisen, and powerful states and mighty dominions sprung into existence. Immigration has changed the dusky wilds of America into bright homes of millions of prosperous people. On the North American continent we see two sister nations arise in all the vigor and energy of youth. Everywhere the hand of labor is at work transforming the rocks, the forest and the field into wealth, and adding to human happiness.

The strong arm of the colonist brushes back the tall forest trees, spans the broad stream and clothes the unshorn fields in mantles of golden harvest. The forests bow down, the hills make way, and the prairies shine in green and gold.

Such are the achievements of the colonist, and such the glory of our great and rising nation. Labor is the foundation of national greatness. *Wealth depends on labor, labor on population, and population on immigration.*

Assuming that the average period of labor of an immigrant is only ten years, and his labor is worth only one hundred dollars to the country per annum, he is, even at this low estimate, worth \$1,000 to the country, and a thousand immigrants are worth, at least, a million dollars.

But immigration does more than merely increase the wealth of the nation; it adds to its social greatness. The best materials of the different nations of the world are welded together to form one people of adamant strength. The more powerful and better qualities remain while the weaker go to the wall. The interaction of different nationalities has in general a beneficent influence in breaking down old barriers of prejudices whether of race, creed or custom, and raising society to a higher and truer level. If then immigration is the primary condition for the settlement of this country, the very foundation for our progress, why is it that it does not receive greater attention by our press and public men?

It is with the conviction that the welfare of the public should be placed before that of party, and that the settlement of this country is *first importance* to every Canadian, that the following has been written:

In outlining this subject we shall consider three points:

1. Is Canada receiving satisfactory immigration and settlement?

2. What are the chief drawbacks to immigration and settlement ?
3. How can immigration and settlement be best promoted ?

II.—IS CANADA RECEIVING SATISFACTORY IMMIGRATION.

Speaking of this question, there are those who say: "Canada is settling fast enough; we get all the immigration we want." "Let us wait till the Eastern Provinces and the United States send in their surplus population," or, "We are going to have a large immigration next year," and so on. Others go further, they oppose immigration because it lowers wages, because it brings poor foreigners into the country, and because they have to pay the expenses of agencies.

Several members of Parliament, especially from cities in the Eastern Provinces, are opposed to immigration, and urge the Government to leave the whole matter alone, because the United States Government does not, and Canada should, in their opinion, be able to compete with the United States.

In trying to account for such views one is tempted to suppose that these members suffer from a mental miopa, which prevents them from looking beyond their own little constituency, and cannot see what is best for the Dominion as a whole. It seems those men never considered that *Canada's hope to become a great country lies in the development of her western provinces and the great Northwest*. Much less did they dream of the difference between Canada and the United States as affecting immigration, and least of all has it dawned upon them that, if *Canada is to have successful immigration she must pay for it*.

Such leave-alone policy is hostile to Canadian interests.

Is Canada settling fast enough? For centuries people have been migrating to this country, and yet not a fourteenth part of Canada's habitable territory is occupied, and not one-thirtieth part of the whole Dominion. Canada has an area of about three and a half million square miles—nearly 1,000,000,000 acres. Now, we find that during more than 150 years of French rule, and about 120 years of English rule barely 67,000,000 of the 1,000,000,000 acres are even nominally occupied.

The census report for 1881 shows the following:

	Occupied.	Vacant.
Nova Scotia	7,446,055	5,935,947
New Brunswick	6,046,183	11,347,227
Prince Edward Island	1,128,332	637,278
Quebec	18,600,678	102,154,227
Ontario	23,500,000	42,611,156
Manitoba about ..	3,000,000	71,000,000
British Columbia " ..	441,255	217,983,048
Northwest Territories " ..	500,000	265,840,000

In this are not estimated the vast, unsettled region of extension of Ontario and South Keewatin, containing hundreds of millions of acres.

From this we see that in the eastern provinces, the most densely populated part of the Dominion, about four-fifths of the total area is still vacant; while of Manitoba and British Columbia only a small fraction is occupied. Thus in Manitoba there are over 71,000,000 acres

vacant ; in British Columbia, 218,000,000 acres, and in the great Northwest over 250,000,000 acres idle. This is the result after hundreds of years. How long shall the great fertile lands remain idle ? How long shall the hundreds of millions of acres remain a wilderness ? How long before they are settled at the present rate ?

As regards population Canada should, at the present rate of Europe, support a population of 300,000,000 if *area alone* is considered. But allowing for climatic difference, Canada should be able to support at least 150,000,000 people, or thirty times her present population. How long will it take before this number is realized at the present rate ? What loss is sustained by the slow development of the country ? During the same period as Canada has been gathering five millions the United States have reached sixty millions. Why ? Do we get enough immigration ? While Canada exceeds the United States in area she receives hardly one for every ten that go to the States. Looking at the return of the census of these countries we find that during the years from 1830 to 1880 Canada secured an immigration of 30,000 per annum on the average, while the United States received annually about half a million. In the years 1881 to 1885 the numbers of immigrants coming to Quebec and to the United States stood as follows, in round numbers :

Year.	Canada.	United States.
1881.....	30,000	670,000
1882.....	45,000	788,000
1883.....	46,000	600,000
1884.....	31,000	550,000
1885.....	17,000	400,000

For 1886 the immigration to the United States amounted to 425,000 but it does not yet appear what it has been to Canada. Once more, compare the numbers immigrating to the Canadian Northwest and to the American Northwest. Last year Minnesota and Dakota alone received 60,000 immigrants, while Manitoba, British Columbia and the great Canadian Northwest got only ten thousand among them. What is ten thousand immigrants for a continent of 887,000 square miles ?

Taking these facts into consideration, we must admit *that Canada is far from receiving her proper share of immigration, or her vacant lands a speedy settlement.*

III.—HOW IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT ARE HINDERED OR PROMOTED.

In examining this we shall simply glance at the leading facts. The immigration and settlement of any country depends primarily on the advantages which that country offers as a field for immigration. The foreigner selects the country he believes best, and in making a choice he is actuated by three things : (1) The natural advantages of the country ; (2) its social advantages ; (3) the inducements offered to immigrants.

The countries which, besides Canada, are to-day receiving a large immigration are the United States, South America, Australasia, India and Africa. Of these, the first three are Canada's greatest competitors, and the United States the most formidable opponent. Comparing returns, we are struck by the comparatively small number Canada

receives. Shall we attribute this loss of immigration to the country itself, or to social disadvantages? Canada's rich resources, salubrious climate and close proximity to the chief European centres of emigration are in her favor, while her free institutions, advanced education and social progress are to her credit. True, the influence of friends and relatives must not be overlooked, and here the most populous country has the advantage, but these are also active in Canada. Or, should we attribute it to the foreigner's love for republican form of government. Not, at least, in the case of the British people. We are, therefore, compelled to look for the causes in the last, namely, the special inducements offered to immigrants.

Briefly, these inducements consist in: (a) *Reduction in fares*; (b) *Employment and good wages*; (c) *Good conditions of settlement*.

Have the needed measures been taken, made known and carried out?

Without going into detail, we note in passing, that in fares Australasia offers far greater reductions, and even free passes to domestic servants, while the United States generally manage to undersell the Canadian lines. *Re* employment and wages, the United States make more dazzling promises; and as to settlement, this is rushed ahead, the railways often being hundreds of miles in advance, and loans and implements are readily supplied by companies and capitalists to settlers on the security of their lands.

In view of this, and the power which their population wields, is it not clear that *extraordinary efforts must be put forth by the people of this Dominion to counteract that influence, and that far greater inducements must be offered to secure successful immigration and rapid settlement of this country?* Are we offering the necessary inducements?

In examining this we shall consider:

1. The system;
2. What is done to bring immigrants;
3. What is done to keep them in the country.

IV.—OUR IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION SYSTEM.

Looking at the *system*, we find that while our public lands are largely under the control of the Department of the Interior, matters relating to immigration are managed by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

Speaking of the *management* of our lands, the Province of Manitoba does not own or control any of its public lands except the swamps and marshes, the farm lands, timber lands and mineral lands being owned by the Dominion and controlled by the Dominion Government. But the Ottawa Government counts 200 out of 215 members from the eastern provinces, and the eastern provinces don't want to expend too much in settling Manitoba; and the Government of Manitoba don't want to spend too much money in settling this province because, "We don't own the lands, nor get the money from their sales, and this is a matter for the Dominion Government." "We cannot support immigration because we have no lands and no money for them." *Can't!* Why not get the lands, or the money? What is to hinder the people of the province owning its lands, or if they sell them, to get ample compensation? What greater paradox, than that in a free country where each province, nay

every municipality is to manage its own affairs, the people of this province should not control its public lands and their settlement?

Then as to *immigration*, the Department of the Interior and the various agents scattered at home and abroad form the ground-work of our immigration system. Some of the provinces have also immigration agencies of their own, others not, and several railway companies and land companies have men employed in promoting the settlement of their lands. Thus it will be seen that the chief management of immigration and settlement is in the hands of the Dominion Government. The province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories have little or no control of their immigration. Instead of the Provincial government controlling the settlement of the province, this is handed over to the Ottawa government; and the Ottawa government, instead of ranking immigration and settlement on a par with, say, the question of fisheries, and of making it a separate department, they patch immigration with another most important department, that of agriculture, and consign this double department over to one minister.

Is it to be wondered at that with such system and attendant red tape, little energy is shown, and less done, and that only a small fraction of what should be done, is even attempted, that small matters require months and larger affairs years.

Further, the work should not be left to mediocrity men, worn out political hacks, or old fogies, fifty years behind the time, without spirit to act or energy to perform; but be entrusted to men whose endowments of head and heart, as well as their experience, fit them for the work, men who have ability to grapple with the difficulties, courage to conquer, and force to ensure success.

Why the *indifferent attitude* of the Dominion Parliament in matters of immigration and settlement? Why do our M. P.'s, who can grow so eloquent over side issues, party questions and personal matters, remain silent on the question of immigration, on which depends the building up of this country? Is not *country before party* and public weal before personal interests? Why not pay as great attention to the settlement of our lands as to the building of railways? What use are railways without settlement? What profit without the labor of the colonist?

Again, why does this Province leave this vital question almost wholly to the Government at Ottawa? Should the Province not control its own settlement? Why should the people of this Province not own its public lands? Why not control their settlement? Should the whole work be left entirely to the railway and land companies; in other words should the Dominion government and the Provincial government do nothing? Are these companies likely to look much beyond their own interests or act very differently from monopolists in the past? Or should poor foreign societies shoulder the burden? While the railway companies and the land companies may do much, and the different societies assist, *the great work of immigration and settlement should be constantly pushed forward by the people through their government.*

V.—WHAT IS DONE TO BRING IMMIGRANTS.

We notice that the government have tried to secure immigrants rather through foreign agencies than the people of this country. But

the first condition of success in the work is to establish *confidence* among foreigners; and friends and relatives have far greater influence than paid agents. It is therefore difficult to see why most efforts have been through foreign agencies and little use made of the people of this country.

For years the Dominion Government have been *expending* for immigration purposes, from \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually, and the greater part of this has gone out of the country to defray the *expenses* of highly salaried agents abroad. These often receive from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per annum, while those doing the hard work here have received but moderate pay, and little or nothing has been done to encourage immigration organizations in this country. Would it not be better *to begin at home*?

Again, our agents have been *directed* largely to Central Europe, and in part to the southern portion of that continent. Regarding these efforts in Southern Europe, it is a little too sanguine to expect people to leave a warmer country for a colder one, or that, if they come, they would stay, or, if they stayed, that they would succeed for some time. Canada must look for her immigrants to countries having a similar or colder climate than hers. She must look to the countries of Northern Europe, as Great Britain, Germany, Russia and the Scandinavian countries. Tens of thousands of Russians are now immigrating annually to the United States. The Germans in that country are estimated at thirteen millions, and the Scandinavians are numbered at about two millions. In Canada the German population is not one quarter of a million, and the Scandinavians not ten thousand. In 1881 the total number of Scandinavians and Icelanders was about 5,000. Why? In a measure, because Canada is neither adequately nor fairly represented in these countries. While the people of Great Britain are bored with agents, and sickened by immigration literature, the other north countries have comparatively few agents and pamphlets sent them. *Why not pay more attention to these northern countries* and send agents and pamphlets in proportion?

But shall we attribute all to unequal distribution of agents and pamphlets? Are the *agents* always the *right* men to represent our Dominion? Do they possess the ability, knowledge and energy requisite for the work, and are gifted with what is most important to success—honesty and candor? This work is important enough to require the best talent. It affects the fortunes of thousands, and brings happiness or misery to countless families and friends. It deserves the able and good men. Have our agents always been such? If so, why that half contempt and distrust they meet with among foreigners, and even our own people? Is it due to the office or the men?

Similarly, is our *immigration literature* what it should be? Do these publications give an exhaustive and true description of the country in an attractive form? Do they show research, ability and candor? If so, why is it they are generally looked upon as trash, which few place any confidence in? A poor pamphlet, like a poor agent, is worse than nothing; it misrepresents the country, and causes useless outlay. Is Canada not worthy of the very best literature to represent her truly among foreigners? Again, the pamphlets should not be got up outside of our Dominion, perhaps by men little acquainted with the

country, but in Canada, and by those who know the country and are able to describe it. Our *immigration literature* should be the *very best*.

Further, the distribution of pamphlets should not be left to steamship agents alone, but they should be sent through the foreign societies here, to the proper parties at home.

Now let us simply glance at the *work done* by agents abroad. What *class of immigrants* do they send us? Are these always people of good character, good constitution, possessing health and strength, and will to work—capital of far greater value than any money they might bring? Do we not sometimes see invalids, incurables and jail birds sent out here by agents who receive for this so much per head. It seems that some agents would do anything so long as they receive their *head money*. What is more unjust to this country than to foist on it such wretches? What is more inhuman than to send such physical and moral wrecks to be a burden and die among strangers? Want of attention to this evil has in no small degree retarded immigration.

Lastly, examine the inducements in *passages* and *fares*. It is well-known that a great deal of sickness exists generally among immigrants during the passage, and on their arrival a large number of children die, and then the parents, wearied and often in poor health, have to suffer bereavement besides. This has the effect of deterring many from coming. Is everything done that could be done to add to the *convenience* and ensure the *health* of immigrants on board the ships and on the cars? As to *rates*, everyone will admit these should be as low or even lower than to the United States, to counteract the influence of that country, and that special reduction should be made to the class Canada needs most, viz: farmers and domestic servants. Is this done? Are not the rates to Canada as high, often higher, than to the States? By this the great tendency of going to the States is increased. As with the steamship companies, so with the railway companies. Why do they not offer lower rates to immigrants than the United States? For this reason many who would otherwise come to Canada go to New York and settle in the States, and many who actually come to Canada come by the United States railways.

Moreover, as to *special reduction* in fares, if one class is required more than another, why not special rates for that class. Canada needs most, *farmers* and *domestic servants*, why not offer these special inducements in fares? Surely Canada is as well able as Australia to make a great reduction in fares, and grant even *free passes* to such classes as she specially requires. Should we not try to grant such rates to immigrants as will induce them to come to come to Canada rather than go to the States?

Considering what is done, is it any wonder Canada does not get more immigrants? Should not more attention be paid to this and more be done to bring immigrants to this country? *If we want immigrants we must do our share to get them.*

VI.—WHAT IS DONE TO KEEP IMMIGRANTS?

Important as it is to get immigrants, it is *far more important to keep them*, and demands far greater labor. It means that we should not

only extend a hearty *welcome* to the stranger who comes to make this country his home, but should assist him in *over-coming his first difficulties and help him to settle.*

1.—*Receiving the Immigrant on his arrival.*

As first impressions have a great deal to do with the immigrant's liking or disliking the country, we should endeavor to make every one *feel at home* on his arrival. Immigrants should not be treated with indifference or apathy because they are foreigners, but with consideration and kindness. Is that always done? or does the foreigner at times keenly feel he is a foreigner by antipathy, patronizing airs, or a sort of pity? Is that likely to win his affection for this country, and its people? As men, they have claims on our respect; as guests, on our hospitality; and as citizens, on our assistance.

Is there adequate provision made *for receiving* immigrants? Immigration sheds indeed exist, where the immigrant may rest after his long and weary journey, but the assistance the agent in charge and the interpreter can give, consists in giving information, securing medical assistance, and notifying the authorities of what is required. Further assistance is rendered by officers employed to look after immigrants on board the trains, and by an intelligence office to guide and advise immigrants. In this Province there are but two immigration offices, and two in the great Northwest, or only four for a continent about 1000 miles in extent.

But is mere information adequate to supply the wants of the weary traveller? Many of our immigrants arrive with but little money, unwell, and, not able to find suitable employment at once, they are compelled to spend their last cent, or perhaps reduced to become a burden to others. The responsibility then falls on friends and countrymen, who may not be able to support a large number, however willing; or it devolves on the city to foot the expense. Is it fair that a small portion of the community should bear the whole burden of what pertains to the country at large? What provision is made for meeting the *first difficulties* of the immigrant and receiving him hospitably to our midst? At Toronto immigrants receive free provisions for the first three days after their arrival. Might not other cities profit by the example? Would it not be as well that part of the money now spent on agents and otherwise, outside our Dominion, be devoted to meet the first wants of immigrants and extending to them a kind and *hospitable reception*?

2.—*Assisting the immigrant after arrival, by employment, etc.*

It is, however, of much greater moment that the immigrant obtain *immediate* and suitable *employment*. He comes here to work and make a place for himself, and his principal care is to seek immediate work and a good home. Delay of employment is a loss of money and time to him and loss of labor to the country. Finding himself out of work, reduced to poverty, and his hopes deceived, he becomes dissatisfied, and an *easy prey to American agents*. If the immigrant cannot get employment here, or has not the money to pay the cost of travel to the work, and an American agent offers him immediate good work, high wages, and a free

ticket to the States, how can we expect to keep him? It is not enough to induce people, by fair promises, to leave their native land, their home, friends and kindred, freight them across to this country; and then leave them at the immigrant sheds, without work or help or encouragement; to let the foreigner suffer the humiliation of strangers' charity and the bitterness of blighted hopes, and the rage of outraged humanity, till disappointed and sad he leaves the country, condemning it on account of misfortunes for which we are to blame. Have we realized that *every one who comes has more or less influence on immigration*, is an argument for or against this country; that *satisfied settlers are the real agents*, and it is of the highest importance to make those who come prosperous citizens? Should any effort be spared then to at least help those who come to get employment? But for this it is necessary that the work in the country be sufficient to meet the demand, either on railroads or other public works, in the workshop or on the farm, and wages and other things be satisfactory. Has there always been enough work to be had, especially farm work?; have immigrants always been treated with due consideration; received fair wages and prompt payment? Though generally this has been the case, there have been too many exceptions. To meet the needs of a *larger immigration we must push on railways and the construction of other public works, foster settlement and see that immigrants are accorded fair treatment and prompt pay.*

It often happens that, while work may be had, the cost of going there prevents the immigrant from securing it. Should he, therefore, remain out of employment, and the country lose his labor? Hundreds have thus lost employment, and been drawn to the United States. And should he have a little money, are we to take from him his last dollar for railway fare, instead of helping him to keep what he has for his most immediate wants? Why not give the immigrant who has paid his way out here a *free fare to employment* within the province? Why not have the difference, if such there must be, made up in the passage rates; or, if not, then defray the expenses by a fund under the control of the government? Which pays better—to refuse free fares and lose the labor, and perhaps the immigrants, or to grant them free fares to work on their first arrival, and secure their labor, and themselves as citizens? Granting *free fares to employment would much enhance the work of keeping our immigrants.*

We shall now rapidly glance at what is required to *find* employment and give *information* regarding work and wages. In order to do this successfully, it is necessary to know at any time the amount of work to be had and the wages offered on the one hand, and the number of men wanting labor, their addresses, etc., on the other, as well as to reach these and secure their labor. That this is a most important work needs not to be stated, not only for immigrants, but for those wanting hire. Have we the means of doing this? Friends, the immigration offices and employment agents do, indeed, much to find work for immigrants, but these are far from sufficient. An effort to meet this want has, however, been made by the Department of the Interior, by establishing in this city an *Intelligence Office* for different nationalities. The work of the office is to supply reliable information *re* employment.

land, wages, etc., giving addresses of parties concerned; further, to meet immigrants on their arrival, guide them by advice, help them to secure employment, and aid them by word and deed as far as possible. This certainly is a step in the right direction. It is to guide the stranger to employment and land and aid him in his endeavors. But as yet it is only a beginning. There are no sub-agencies throughout the country, sending in to the head office their daily or even weekly accounts of labor to be had or men wanted; nor do the agencies abroad send to the intelligence office here classified lists of the *emigrants coming*, and thus allow time to provide employment and places for them. Co-operation between this intelligence office and sub-agencies throughout the country and the emigration agencies abroad would greatly facilitate the work of securing the *right class of immigrants*, and what is far more important, providing them with *immediate employment* and helping them to *secure land* and become useful citizens in this country.

But though the first difficulty of securing employment be successfully overcome, is that all? Does it not happen, especially during the winter season, that the immigrant is unable to secure work, or that through *sickness* or some other *misfortune* he is unable to do for himself? Are the immigration shed and the intelligence office then all-sufficient? Does the shelter of the one or the information and advice of the other supply the need of some poor individual? Are words enough to keep the wolf from the door, or advice when bread is wanted? Should the unfortunate then be left alone, or become a burden to some poor friend or society, or still worse, become a public pauper for the city, and thus draw down on his friends and countrymen silent scorn or loud indignation. Is it just that the whole burden rest on a few when the work is in the general interest of the country, or expedient to give people a cause of complaint against immigrants? Why not avert the difficulty by having a *fund* set apart by the government to assist deserving immigrants, recommended after due consideration by trustworthy officials for assistance? Often the amount needed is the merest trifle, and not worth any noise made about it. Thus the immigrant could be rendered help, which, though small, would be none the less valued by him, and would, instead of leaving the immigrant unassisted, dissatisfied, and denouncing the country, win his good-will and secure in him a good citizen,

3.—Of Settlement.

We shall now briefly consider *the advantages to settlers*. As an immigrant is not certain to remain here till he has made a home for himself and has interests here, no effort should be spared to encourage him to settle and become a citizen; and as the people required to build up this country are workingmen: laborers, mechanics and farmers, we shall confine ourselves to these classes.

First, then, as regards the *laborer*. His livelihood is conditioned by the amount of employment and wages, and this again depends on the amount of railways and other public works under construction, as well as the amount of mining and lumbering going on.

Similarly the *mechanic* is dependent on the amount of building going on, and the progress of our manufacturing industries.

But the *farmer* is by far the most valuable settler and the most needed for the country. Hundreds of millions of acres in Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest—this greater Canada—remain still idle, awaiting his arrival to change the haunt of the savage into a home of civilization.

What is being done to promote the settlement of the vacant lands? True, the Government have passed fairly good land laws and regulations relating to settlement. Further, they have established in this province an *Office of Dominion Lands*, with sub offices throughout the country. Thus a classified record is kept of all farm lands, occupied, cancelled or vacant, of entries, claims, etc. Moreover, the Dominion Lands Office has, of late, employed land guides to direct intending settlers, a most valuable help. In justice to this office it must be said that there is probably no office in the Dominion which is managed with greater ability and energy, or has an abler staff of officers.

But laws and officers to keep account of settlement are not all sufficient.

What the farmer wants is good farm land, employment and some capital to start.

We have pointed out that the *public lands* of this Province are not owned or controlled by the Province, but by the Dominion Government. That the eastern provinces are not over anxious to spend their money in opening up the great Northwest, and the Government here are unable or inactive. Should this remain so? Should not the settlement of this Province be controlled by the people of this Province? Either the people of this Province should own the public lands or get enough compensation. In any case they should control the settlement.

We have pointed out the vast amount of lands still vacant in this Province, British Columbia and the Northwest. But, are all these lands open for homesteads? What free grant lands are there in British Columbia? Are not tens of millions of acres along our railways in the great Northwest and in this Province locked up in the grasp of railway and land companies? Nay, is not the land of the Red River Valley, and even around our towns, *locked up by monopolists and speculators*? Thus the settler is compelled to go farther and farther away from railway and market; the town is deprived of the support of a wealthy farming community, and the immigrant is impressed with the idea that since the adjacent lands are not settled they must be worthless. This *deserted waste* around our towns has drawn upon them the reproach of being "merely collections of houses dropped on the prairie," and *has done more than little harm to this city and the country at large*.

Why should we thus lose the produce of the land and wealth of millions of people? Why should these fertile lands remain in the hands of monopolists and speculators to hinder the progress of the country? "No doubt this will come all right in time," someone says. What time? Or, "We are not going to sell our lands till we get enough for them." How much? Why must the country suffer from a short-sighted avarice of a few monopolists and speculators, and the best lands be locked up useless for time indefinite? Why not compel them as well as the poor homesteader to make *certain improvements on the land*? Why not counteract the evil by imposing a *higher rate of taxation* in proportion as their

property increases, so as to equalize wealth and make them more reasonable in demands? Lastly, why not *form colonization companies* backed by the Government, to buy these lands and grant them for settlements? Would it not pay to invest money for this purpose? A million acres idle are worth nothing; if cultivated and productive they are worth \$20,000,000. The five million acres in the Red River Valley if under cultivation would at this low rate be worth \$100,000,000, besides bringing to this country millions of people. *If much is gained by building railways, how much more is gained by settling and cultivating our lands?*

In reference to settlement it may be noted that no *reserves* should be granted as these tend to exclude Canadian civilization and progress, but lands should be granted for settlement, long enough to form a nucleus of a colony.

But the settler needs more than the mere land to make a success; he needs *employment* and money to defray ordinary expenses. For employment he is dependent on the town, the farmers around him, or the railway and other public works. Hence, it is important that railways be run through the country, not only to afford a near market, but employment to the colonist. Is this done? Do we *rush* our railways so as to *keep pace with the settler*? Instead of being ahead of the settlement, are they not often behind? If we want settlements to flourish *we must have railways to open up the country*.

Lastly, a large number of our immigrants have not sufficient *capital to start*. The amount required may be only \$400 for one, or only \$250 if two go together, but not having the amount required, the immigrant is compelled to take labor on the public works. Thus he may go on for years, and perhaps give up the idea of farming altogether. The loss thus occasioned to the country is the difference between the labor of the navvy and the work of the farmer. Now, it is well known that navvies will, as a general rule, earn in summer only what they spend in winter, and are thus, after several years, no further ahead than when they began, while the farmer, besides gaining his own livelihood, has in three years a farm, worth at the low valuation of \$6 per acre, about \$1,000. This, then, is the difference in wealth produced in three years by the two men, and this is the loss the country sustains by one man compelled by want of funds to take to navvy work instead of settling on land. Thus the loss is for 1,000 settlers a million dollars in three years. Would it not pay to save *this loss*, by *advancing one-fourth* of the sum, or \$250 to each immigrant, and taking security on the land? If the country is good it should be safe; at any rate, the money is spent in *this country*. Would it not pay better to settle the hundreds of millions of acres of vacant lands by advancing small loans to each settler on security than to have them idle and without profit? to have millions of prosperous colonists instead or hardly any? Are there any colonization companies ready to advance such loans to immigrants? If so, where? And where are their offers to that effect? Which pays better, to grant no loans to settlers and have no settlement and few people, or to grant loans and have settlements of thousands of prosperous people? If we could offer the millions of Europe *free lands and loan to settle*, *we should have tens of thousands instead of hundreds, and numerous flourishing settlements building up our great Dominion*.

VII.—SUMMARY.

What, then, are the hindrances, and how can immigration and settlement be promoted ?

In the above we have briefly reviewed the question of immigration and settlement, and the principal drawbacks to these. We shall now endeavor to point out how these difficulties may be *removed* and the welfare of the country advanced.

We remarked that while Canada is a continent equal to Europe, possessing one and a half million square miles of habitable country, and capable of supporting at least 150,000,000 people, she has yet only five million, or one-twelfth of the population of the United States; that Manitoba, British Columbia and the Great Northwest have over 550,000-000 acres of the richest land still unoccupied and idle, awaiting the immigrant and settler; that while the government have spent large sums of money, immigration has kept tending to the United States; that the reason for this is not inferiority of this country or aversion among foreigners, but is due principally to our own *mismanagement of immigration*.

In our brief inquiry we examined (1) the system; (2) what is done to bring immigrants, and (3) what is done to keep them in the country. This led us to the conclusions:—

1. That immigration and settlement do not receive due attention by our public men and Government, but occupy inferior position, and in the work little energy, less despatch and no enthusiasm is shown.

3. That the system is very defective. No public lands owned by this Province. No department for immigration and settlement. No active co-operation between the Dominion Government, the Provincial Government, the Railway and Land Companies and different National Societies here and abroad.

3. That the efforts to promote immigration and settlement are far from sufficient to counteract the tendency of immigrating to the States, nor is efficient control exercised by the Provincial Government.

4. That the efforts are expended abroad rather than in this country (where the chief work is to be done). and the money is spent in foreign agencies rather than in encouraging settlers here to bring out their friends and help them to settle.

5. That in our efforts to secure immigrants too little attention is paid to the northern countries of Europe, our agents often unfit for their work, the immigration literature unworthy of the country, the immigrants sent out sometimes not the right class, the fares not low enough to compete with American lines, and insufficient reduction granted to the required classes of immigrants.

6. That the work of keeping the immigrant in the country is much neglected in attending to his needs on arrival, securing him employment and helping him to settle. That there is too little provision made for helping him in his first difficulties, by a fund to assist deserving ones and by granting free fares to employment. That our railways and manufactories are not always sufficient to meet the demands of a large immigration. That a great part of the best land is locked up by railway

and land companies and speculators and the settler has, therefore, often difficulty in getting good land near a market, and little, if any, chance of securing a loan to start.

In view of this the following might be suggested :

1. That as the progress of this Dominion depends on immigration and settlement of her lands, the work of immigration and settlement is entitled to first consideration by our public men and government, and should be carried on with enthusiasm, energy and despatch.

2. That a better system is required. Giving the province a control of its public lands, a separate Department of Immigration by the Dominion government, and an active co-operation among the Dominion Government, the Provincial Government, the Railway and Land companies and different national Societies here and abroad.

3. That, on account of the great tendency of immigrating to the States, Canada must make proportionately greater efforts and pay more for her immigration, and this should not be controlled by monopolists, but by the people and their Government.

4. That as the great work must be done *in this country* helping the immigrants get employment and settle, and as satisfied settlers writing home to their friends and helping immigrants here, do far more for immigration than all the paid agents abroad, the efforts should be directed to this country and the money expended should be spent here helping the immigrants to settle rather than in foreign agencies.

5. That the work of securing immigrants would be promoted ; (a) By turning our efforts more to the northern countries of Europe, as these nations are suited for this country, and willing to come ; (b) By employing only able, well-informed and good men as agents among their own nationalities ; (c) By circulating only well-written and reliable immigration literature, and distributing it, through the foreign societies here, to proper parties at home ; (d) By encouraging only a good class of immigrants to come, making the agents responsible for want of attention to this, and doing away with head money ; (e) By cheaper fares to Canada than the States offer, making special reduction for classes most required ; (f) By booking immigrants through to the colonies, and according them every comfort during the journey.

6. Keeping immigrants in this country would be enhanced, (a) : By extending to them a kind reception on their arrival, and having our immigrant sheds attractive as well as comfortable ; (b) : By giving them information and advice regarding employment and land, and for this purpose have employment and guide agencies throughout the country ; (c) : By granting immigrants free fares to employment or settlement on their first arrival ; (d) : By having some of the money voted for immigration set apart as a fund, under the control of the government, to help deserving immigrants in need or misfortune ; (e) ; By pushing railways, mining, manufactures in this country, to increase its wealth and give employment to the laborer or mechanic ; (f) : By granting favorable conditions of settling on the vacant lands. For this, the province must own and control its public lands. Monopolists and speculators must be prevented from locking up millions of acres, by higher rate of taxation, and compulsory improvements, and the farmer thus enabled to secure good lands near the best market. Colonization railways must be run through

the country, affording employment and market. Lastly, Colonization Companies must be formed to grant loans to settlers on security of their lands, so that all who wish to settle can do so and become useful citizens of this country.

In closing this brief sketch on immigration and settlement, let us remember: *that if Canada is to be a great country, her vast unoccupied territory must receive far larger immigration and more rapid settlement; that the provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia and the Great Northwest, this western and "Greater Canada," of 550,000,000 acres,—rich in resources of mine, field and forests—must be opened up and settled, and for this great work the Eastern Provinces and Great Britain must furnish the capital to build colonization and commercial railways, work the mines build up our manufactures, and turn the vast prairies into homes of millions of prosperous people.*



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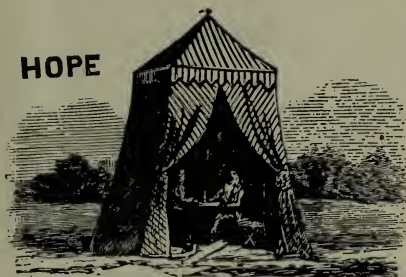
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